

STATEMENT UNDER ARTICLE 19 (1)

It was made clear with the amendment to Claims 1, 2, 3, 7, 8 and 9 that identification information stored in association with a time stamp is made up of information allotted to each user and information allotted to each user group.

Japanese Patent Application Publication (KOKAI) 2000-281569 (hereinbelow, referred to as Document 1) discloses a technique that, in a case where a video played on a TV 1 among two TVs is paused by a user, identification information of a remote control functioning as a transmission source of a pause command and a time stopped are stored in a video server and the video is played from the time stopped on another TV 2 in response to a pause cancel command by the user.

Japanese Patent Application Publication (KOKAI) 2002-112201 (hereinbelow, referred to as Document 2) discloses a technique that, in a case where stop of playing of the disc is inputted, a position on the disc at the time of input is stored for each program as resume information.

However, both of the Documents fails to disclose a configuration that information allotted to each user group is included in identification information stored in association with a time stamp.

Accordingly, the techniques disclosed in Document 1 and Document 2 cannot realize the operation and effect of "by setting such that a client that has notified a valid user ID is authorized to access to the bookmark information, the user is able to use the bookmark information from any client that is capable of accessing the server 2 by inputting the user ID" (page 15, lines 13-19 of the Japanese Description), which can be realized by the present invention according to Claims 1, 2, 3, 7, 8 and 9.

This applies not only to the invention of Document 1 and Document 2 solely but also to a combination thereof

similarly since it is not disclosed and suggested that the information allotted to each user group is included in the identification information.

It is noted that the amendment to Claims 1, 2, 3, 7, 8 and 9 is supported by the description in page 15, lines 10-16 of the Japanese description.

Claims

1. (Amended) A communications system comprising of an information processing apparatus and an information management apparatus managing contents, in which:
- 5 said information processing apparatus includes:
- playing means playing content provided from said information management apparatus via a network;
- first request means requesting said
- 10 information management apparatus to store a time stamp and predetermined identification information in association when it is instructed, while said content is played by said playing means, that the time stamp representing the playing position at that moment be
- 15 stored; and
- second request means notifying said information management apparatus of said identification information and requesting the playing of said content from the position represented by said time stamp, and
- 20 is characterized in that:
- said identification information comprises information allotted to each user and information allotted to each user group, and
- said playing means plays said content
- 25 from said position represented by said time stamp provided from said information management apparatus in accordance with the request by said second request means, and
- said information management apparatus
- 30 includes:
- providing means providing said content

to said information processing apparatus via said network; and

storing means storing said time stamp and said identification information in association in accordance with the request from said information processing apparatus, and

is characterized in that:

said providing means provides said content from the position represented by said time stamp when, from said information processing apparatus, said identification information is notified and the playing of said content from the position represented by said time stamp stored by said storing means is requested.

2. (Amended) A communications method in a communication system comprising of an information processing apparatus and an information management apparatus managing contents, in which:

an information processing method of said information processing apparatus

comprises:

a playing step of playing content provided from said information management apparatus via a network;

a first request step of requesting said information management apparatus to store a time stamp and predetermined identification information in association when it is instructed, while said content is played by the process of said playing step, that the time stamp representing the playing position at that moment be stored; and

a second request step of notifying said information management apparatus of said identification information and requesting the playing of said content from the position represented by said time stamp, and

5 is characterized in that:

said identification information comprises information allotted to each user and information allotted to each user group, and

said content from the position
10 represented by said time stamp provided from said information management apparatus in accordance with the request by the process of said second request step is played by the process of said playing step, and

an information management method of said
15 information management apparatus

comprises:

a providing step of providing said content to said information processing apparatus via said network; and

20 a storing step of storing a time stamp and identification information in association in accordance with the request from said information processing apparatus, and

is characterized in that:

25 said content is provided by the process of said providing step from a position represented by said time stamp when, from said information processing apparatus, said identification information is notified and the playing of said content from the position
30 represented by said time stamp stored by the process of said storing step is requested.

3. (Amended) An information processing apparatus,
characterized by having:

playing means playing content provided from
5 an information management apparatus managing said content
via a network;

first request means requesting said
information management apparatus to store a time stamp
and predetermined identification information in
10 association when it is instructed, while said content is
played by said playing means, that said time stamp
representing a playing position at that moment be stored;
and

second request means notifying said
15 information management apparatus of said identification
information and requesting the playing of said content
from the position represented by said time stamp, and
characterized in that:

said identification information comprises
20 information allotted to each user and information
allotted to each user group, and

said playing means plays said content from
said position represented by said time stamp provided
from said information management apparatus in accordance
25 with the request by said second request means.

4. The information processing apparatus as claimed in
Claim 3, characterized in that:

in a case where storage of said time stamp is
30 instructed when it is instructed that the playing of said
content be stopped, said first request means may request

the information management apparatus to stop providing said content as well as to store said time stamp.

5. (Cancelled)

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6. The information processing apparatus as claimed in Claim 3,

characterized by further having third request means requesting a viewing status information management apparatus that manages viewing status information to
10 store viewing status information representing a viewing status of said content, and

characterized in that said second request means requests the playing of said content from the position
15 represented by said time stamp in accordance with said viewing status represented by said viewing status information.

7. (Amended) An information processing method,
20 characterized by including:

a playing step of playing content provided from said information management apparatus via a network;
a first request step of requesting said information management apparatus to store a time stamp
25 and predetermined identification information in association when it is instructed, while said content is played by the process of said playing step, that the time stamp representing the playing position at that moment be stored; and

30 a second request step of notifying said information management apparatus of said identification

information and requesting the playing of said content from the position represented by said time stamp, and characterized in that:

5 said identification information comprises information allotted to each user and information allotted to each user group, and
 said content from the position represented by said time stamp provided from said information management apparatus in accordance with the request by the process
10 of said second request step is played by the process of said playing step.

8. (Amended) A recording medium having recorded therein a computer readable program, said program:
15 characterized by including:
 a playing step of playing content provided from said information management apparatus via a network;
 a first request step of requesting said information management apparatus to store a time stamp
20 and predetermined identification information in association when it is instructed, while said content is played by the process of said playing step, that the time stamp representing the playing position at that moment be stored; and
25 a second request step of notifying said information management apparatus of said identification information and requesting the playing of said content from the position represented by said time stamp, and
 characterized in that:
30 said identification information comprises information allotted to each user and information

allotted to each user group, and

said content from the position represented by
said time stamp provided from said information management
apparatus in accordance with the request by the process
5 of said second request step is played by the process of
said playing step.

9. (Amended) A program to be executed by a computer,
characterized by including:

10 a playing step of playing content provided
from said information management apparatus via a network;
a first request step of requesting said
information management apparatus to store a time stamp
and predetermined identification information in
15 association when it is instructed, while said content is
played by the process of said playing step, that the time
stamp representing the playing position at that moment be
stored; and

a second request step of notifying said
20 information management apparatus of said identification
information and requesting the playing of said content
from the position represented by said time stamp, and
characterized in that:

said identification information comprises
25 information allotted to each user and information
allotted to each user group, and

said content from the position represented by
said time stamp provided from said information management
apparatus in accordance with the request by the process
30 of said second request step is played by the process of
said playing step.

10. An information management apparatus,
characterized by including:

providing means providing via a network
5 predetermined content to an information processing
apparatus that is connected via said network; and
storing means storing a time stamp, which
represents a playing position for said content provided
by said providing means, and predetermined identification
10 information in association in accordance with a request
from said information processing apparatus, and
characterized in that:

said providing means provides said content
from the position represented by said time stamp when,
15 from said information processing apparatus, said
identification information is notified and the playing of
said content from the position represented by said time
stamp stored by said storing means is requested.

20 11. The information management apparatus as claimed in
Claim 10,

characterized by further including viewing status
information storing means storing viewing status
information, which represents a viewing status of said
25 content, in accordance with a request from said
information processing apparatus, and

characterized in that, in a case where said viewing
status represented by said viewing status information
stored by said viewing status information storing means
30 indicates that said content has not been played to the
end, said providing means provides said content from the

position represented by said time stamp.

12. An information management method,
characterized by including:

5 a providing step of providing via a network
predetermined content to an information processing
apparatus that is connected via the network, and

a storing step of storing a time stamp, which
represents a playing position for said content provided
10 by the process of said providing step, and predetermined
identification information in association in accordance
with a request from said information processing apparatus,
and

characterized in that:

15 said content is provided by the process of
said providing step from a position represented by said
time stamp when, from said information processing
apparatus, said identification information is notified
and the playing of said content from the position
20 represented by said time stamp stored by the process of
said storing step is requested.

13. A recording medium having recorded therein a
computer readable program,

25 characterized by including:

a providing step of providing via a network
predetermined content to an information processing
apparatus that is connected via the network; and

a storing step of storing a time stamp, which
30 represents a playing position for said content provided
by the process of said providing step, and predetermined

identification information in association in accordance with a request from said information processing apparatus, and

characterized in that:

5 said content is provided by the process of said providing step from a position represented by said time stamp when, from said information processing apparatus, said identification information is notified and the playing of said content from the position
10 represented by said time stamp stored by the process of said storing step is requested.

14. A program to be executed by a computer, characterized by including:

15 a providing step of providing via a network predetermined content to an information processing apparatus that is connected via the network; and
 a storing step of storing a time stamp, which represents a playing position for said content provided
20 by the process of said providing step, and predetermined identification information in association in accordance with a request from said information processing apparatus, and

characterized in that:

25 said content is provided by the process of said providing step from a position represented by said time stamp when, from said information processing apparatus, said identification information is notified and the playing of said content from the position
30 represented by said time stamp stored by the process of said storing step is requested.